easiest, *i.e.* on the number of children. Economic rationalism and self-indulgence grow with economic ease, and with it the reluctance to produce large families. " Reason is the greatest enemy of the child", writes Johannes Mueller, "for the child, from the strictly rational point of view, is an uneconomic investment; it disturbs the domestic peace, is a drag on professional advancement, and interferes with pleasures/'[1]

The use of contraceptives started with the educated and wealthy classes in the big towns and in the more advanced countries, was gradually adopted by the upper classes of backward countries, but takes a long time in reaching the masses. It has spread from Western and Central to Eastern Europe. Among the non-Jews of Budapest the birth-rate of to-day corresponds to that of Berlin in 1890, in Warsaw to that of Berlin in 1880.

Birth-control in marriage cannot be described off-hand as a sign of degeneracy. Where it remains within certain limits or is of a eugenic character—in the case of parents who are sick or not in a position to bring up a large family —it is socially advantageous as it prevents the community from being burdened with children who are sickly or in-sufficiently provided for by their parents. Such a qualitative improvement of the race can compensate, or even more than compensate, the nation for the loss in numbers.

It is different where birth-control predominates among the physically and socially most valuable strata, or where it reaches such a degree that the number of births no longer equals that of deaths, and the nation is threatened with gradual extinction.

With the Jews, class divisions are of such recent date and so obviously determined by external factors, especially the condition of the country which they inhabit, that racial characteristics do not differ to any marked extent with the

[1] In the *Handwo&rterbuch der Staatsujissenschaften* under " Qeb"urten-ruckgang", vol. iv. (Jena, 1927).